



**HAMPSHIRE  
STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

# Glossary of Terms

AREIAC	Association of Religious Education Inspectors Advisers and Consultants
AULRE	Association of University Lecturers in Religious Education
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CoRE	Commission on Religious Education
E Bacc	English Baccalaureate: Secondary schools in England are measured on the number of young people who are entered for the E Bacc. The E Bacc is a set of GCSE (or other approved qualifications) in subjects as defined by the Department for Education (DfE). The subjects that comprise the EBacc are : English (both literature and language), mathematics, history or geography, two sciences (which could include computing science) and an ancient or modern foreign language
ECT	Early Career Teacher
EMTAS	Ethnic Minority and Travellers Achievement Services
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
HIAS	Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
NASACRE	National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education
NATRE	National Association of Teachers of Religious Education
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
PGCE	Post Graduate Certificate of Education
PPA	Planning, Preparation and Assessment
QCDA	Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency
RE	Religious Education
REC	Religious Education Council
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
SAPERE	Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education
SCITT	School Centred Initial Teacher Training
SEF	Self Evaluation Form
SIP	School Improvement Partner
SMSC	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural
VLE	Virtual Learning Environment
WRAP	Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent

# **HAMPSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

## **Introduction from Chair of SACRE**

I am delighted to present the Hampshire SACRE annual report for 2023/24 and to present the achievements and activities of SACRE that have taken place in the last year.

The key activity this year has been concluding the work of the Task and Finish subgroup, which comprehensively reviewed the constitution for the SACRE and adopted a revised constitution at the end of the last reporting period. In this period, the Professional Advisers reviewed the membership of group A and brought a report to the first full SACRE meeting with recommendations as part of this review. This was agreed by the SACRE and the Local Authority later in the year.

At the end of this reporting period, we were delighted to know that we have been awarded a Westhill grant to help us run a Secondary Youth Voice event in the summer of 2025, which is a significant help to us in organising such an event. Thanks go to NASACRE for their advertising of this to all SACREs.

Finally, a key piece of work for the SACRE's advisors was the summarising of the Ofsted National RE report to SACRE and organising training for senior school leaders and RE leaders about the report in this period and the year ahead.

I am grateful to all the SACRE members, teachers and our SACRE Advisers who have contributed to the work of the SACRE during this year. We were greatly saddened to hear that Elizabeth Jenkerson had passed away in January and we acknowledged how much Elizabeth had been a force for good, knowledge and enthusiasm as part of Hampshire's SACRE. We shall miss her. I would also like to thank Howard Wright from Group B, the Church of England, who has left at the end of this reporting period after many years of service on the SACRE. Thank you Howard for your valued contribution over these years.

I am greatly encouraged by the commitment to Religious Education across the county of Hampshire and by our focus on ensuring that all Hampshire children and young people have access to the best advice and support for religious education possible, regardless of where they go to school.

SACRE Monitoring Group meets once each term some weeks before the full SACRE. This detailed reflection on religious education ensures SACRE is well prepared to make decisions regarding provision of training and other issues. SACRE is well served by our experienced Clerk based in democratic services and HIAS professional advisers ensure SACRE is informed and up to date about all issues concerning religious education locally and nationally. I am grateful for the work and dedication of all colleagues, and how together we ensure high quality religious education in Hampshire.

Councillor Elaine Still

# 1. Introduction and Overview of the Hampshire Context

## Introduction

The focus of the year covered by this report has been to conclude the review of SACRE's constitution and the membership of group A. The SACRE has also continued to monitor the implementation and the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus *Living Difference IV*, as well as briefing its members and schools on the national Ofsted RE report. It has also worked hard to secure a grant to ensure that it can run a Youth Voice event in the next academic year.

Hampshire SACRE is fortunate to have the continued support of the Local Authority, and this is a key part of ensuring its effectiveness as a SACRE. This is evidenced in a number of practical ways, including funding Monitoring visits and in ensuring two RE Inspector/Advisors with specialist expertise in primary and secondary RE advise the SACRE.

In the 2021 census, the figures show the following for religion and belief among residents in Hampshire (Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight are reported separately):

- 47.8% Christian
- 42.8% No religion
- 1.1% Hindu
- 0.9% Muslim
- 0.8% Buddhist
- 0.2% Sikh

The two largest groups are Christian and No religious belief in our Hampshire area at the time of the census. It is worth noting however that there are some differences across the county, for example Rushmoor which has 4.7% Buddhist and 5.7% Hindu residents.

Hampshire SACRE is held in high regard locally, regionally, and nationally for the way it functions to support high quality Religious Education (RE) in Hampshire Schools and for the quality of its Locally Agreed Syllabus, *Living Difference IV*. Hampshire has two advisers, both part time for RE, who are available to give professional advice to SACRE. The County Inspector/Adviser has continued to oversee both History and RE with a special focus on Primary RE and there is also a part time Adviser for Secondary RE, both of whom attend the SACRE meetings and monitoring group meetings.

During this reporting period, the SACRE has been represented by the professional adviser at the national NASACRE conference and at NASACRE training throughout the year along with other SACRE members. The adviser has also organised and attended a South East gathering of SACRE's and reported back to Hampshire SACRE on this and other training attended.

During this period regular training and advice has continued to be given to schools to support the implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, *Living Difference IV*,

Both the SACRE RE advisers have engaged with the national world of RE and are members of:

AREIAC

AULRE

NASACRE through the Hampshire SACRE and

The County Inspector is also the South East lead for the RE Hubs project

Both Advisers have spoken nationally at the recent AREIAC/AULRE national conference in June on RE. This has ensured that the innovations present in Living Difference IV are contributing to conversations about the future of the subject in the RE community more widely. Hampshire RE maintains respect as a well-researched, educationally strong approach to religious education.

Senior leadership teams and teachers of RE in Hampshire primary, secondary and special schools have therefore continued to have access to a high level of quality support and guidance through the period of this report. During this reporting period, the training and support that has been offered to schools has been both face to face and virtually, with a mix of times to suit teacher availability, including many twilight sessions.

Monitoring in various ways continued to show that RE thrives where support from the senior leadership team for RE is strong.

## **2. Standards and quality of provision of RE**

Within Hampshire, high quality advice is available to schools in a number of ways:

1. The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV, which is available here for schools, together with planning and further guidance:  
[HIAS Religious Education Moodle \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk)
2. The County RE Centre which loans artefacts to schools, deals with general queries, loans books and resources to schools and helps with planning and the purchase of training resources for schools.
3. The two SACRE officers for both primary, secondary and special schools who are available for advice. They have also made face to face visits to a small selection of primary and secondary schools during this period, which have been completed with LA funding for HIAS Adviser time. Reports on these visits are regularly made to the Monitoring Group, which has continued to meet each term during this period.
4. Working one to one with heads of department in secondary schools and subject leaders in primary schools with both Advisers through the HIAS management partnership arrangements. This has been combined with adviser training in-school at whole school staff meetings, with all teachers and support staff.
5. Termly secondary and primary network meetings through this period. All these groups are also registered with NATRE. Network meetings play a large part in the implementation of the Locally Agreed Syllabus Living Difference IV and therefore to the raising of standards in RE across Hampshire schools.

6. Regular CPD opportunities across the year for schools
7. Primary and secondary steering groups who have met during the year to advise and support advice given to fellow teachers. Some members of these steering groups are also on the SACRE and are able to feedback to the SACRE through the year.

**(a) Public Examinations in 2023**

**GCSE Full Course Religious Studies.**

The Secondary RE adviser advised the SACRE that in 2023 Hampshire had 15.9% of students opting for GCSE RS, which is low compared to the national figure of 25.7%. The percentage of students gaining a grade 4-9 was at 72.9%, which is slightly above the national average of 72.2% (national comparison data provided by NATRE).

The key overall figures (taken from FFT data) again remain in line with national results, and while there has been a drop in outcomes from the previous year, this is in line with the national trend. At the 7+ band, there has been a 7% drop which brings results into line with 2019 outcomes, and again represents a national trend, although this has taken Hampshire results from slightly above national outcomes to slightly below this year for the 7+ outcomes.

The generally positive headline figures reveal some concerns. The first is a 19% drop in entries compared to 2019. Possible explanations for this were discussed by the monitoring group, including EBacc entries, a lack of specialist teachers and recruitment.

The data analysis also raises a concern with the outcomes of SEND students, where there is an attainment gap which has widened on last year. It was agreed with the SACRE that this would be a key area of focus for the year and dissemination of good practice would be a priority across all CPD.

SACRE sent letters to those schools performing particularly well in different areas and the Secondary RE Advisor worked with the Chair of SACRE to produce these.

**(b) Progress and attainment in RE not covered by public examinations**

SACRE has sought to reemphasise, through the new Locally Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference IV, the significance of high-quality core provision for all young people at this stage of their school career. SACRE remains concerned about the percentage of young people overall across Hampshire who are able to access a GCSE course and the RE provision at KS4 for young people not studying for GCSE RS. This concern is shared in training provided for teachers, senior leaders and governors as well as key messages shared with other Inspectors and Advisers. SACRE recommends that the LA identifies the level of provision in schools for the core KS4 RE entitlement and offers support where this falls below the expectations outlined in Living Difference IV.

Regarding RE in Hampshire primary schools, SACRE monitoring visits within KS1 and KS2 reveals that RE leadership is strong in Hampshire and that RE leaders feel supported by their school leaders. RE leaders are aware of the changes to the

Locally Agreed Syllabus and many have attended training for this to ensure they were up to date. Planning and delivery of RE followed the Locally Agreed Syllabus and the focus on implementing the golden threads from the syllabus in the RE curriculum and assessment outlined last year were seen across all schools monitored in this reporting period.

### **(c) The Quality of RE provision in Hampshire schools**

Monitoring visits undertaken during this period, together with attendance at Inspector/Advisor courses, RE network meetings and steering groups indicates that most schools are developing their curriculum to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3.

In the primary phase, allocation of time for RE is usually good and RE tends to be blocked over a longer period to allow for teaching the cycle of enquiry effectively from one step to another. In the secondary phase, time allocation for all pupils at KS3 continues to be good in most schools and was still taught during periods of remote teaching.

At KS4, where GCSE is being taught, time allocation for young people undertaking GCSE is usually at least in accordance with the time requirements of the County Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE has continued to monitor the teaching of core RE at KS4. Living Difference IV reemphasises the significance of core RE at KS4 and has sought to offer additional advice and guidance on the development of high quality courses appropriate for this age of young person.

### **(d) Withdrawal from RE**

In the schools visited for monitoring during this period, only one school had had one child withdraw from RE, revealing that nearly all children attended RE lessons.

### **(e) Complaints about RE**

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

### **(f) Implementation and monitoring of the Agreed Syllabus**

Regular training is offered for primary, secondary, and special school teachers, senior leaders, school governors and speakers for RE on the Locally Agreed Syllabus. The Syllabus continues to be monitored for effectiveness through the Monitoring Group, which meets once each term before the full SACRE and reporting to the SACRE.

## **Links to broader teacher education and other community initiatives in relation to religious education**

During the period of this report, and commencing in September 2023, one Hampshire secondary teacher has participated in the Stage 2 National RE leadership programme. This project is supported by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust. The teacher is part of the Hampshire Secondary RE Steering group and has regularly presented at Hampshire RE Conferences and elsewhere. SACRE received a presentation from the teachers at the end of their programme to update the on the programme and how it benefited their teaching and advising of RE.

The County Inspector/Adviser and Secondary Adviser maintain good contacts with Winchester University Teacher Training departments. Both programme managers are members of the SACRE and report regularly on areas to do with teacher training. SACRE continued to monitor recruitment in this period, since ensuring specialist RE teachers are in post in secondary schools and well qualified informed teachers appointed into primary schools is essential. SACRE remains concerned that recruitment nationally for RS teachers 2023/24 was considerably reduced and recognises that locally efforts are being made to ensure increased recruitment for 2024 intake, helped by the introduction of a national teaching bursary for the intake of 2024. The SACRE has been made aware through the year that there are national issues that are leading to this situation and these also need addressing.

Support continues to be offered to new teachers as well as continuing development of expertise through the whole of a teacher's career. Both SACRE advisers have worked with Winchester University to advise and train new teachers in the Locally Agreed Syllabus this year. In this way SACRE ensures that as many new teachers as possible are aware and understand the Locally Agreed Syllabus before they teach RE in Hampshire schools.

**Youth Voice to SACRE:** At the end of this reporting period SACRE was delighted to note that a Westhill grant award was made to Hampshire SACRE to run a secondary Youth Voice event and to establish materials and resources to help run this in future years. This event will take place in the summer of 2025.

**South East SACRE hub:** Hampshire SACRE has offered leadership to chairs and professional advisers of neighbouring SACREs for around 10 years. During the period of this report, the RE Hubs national initiative worked with NASACRE to offer SACRE meetings for groups of SACREs in each region and the Professional Adviser to the SACRE ran this meeting in her Hubs role along with NASACRE to provide advice and support to all SACREs.

## **3 SACRE Monitoring of standards and quality of provision of Collective Worship**

### **Compliance with statutory requirement and the quality of collective worship**

SACRE has gathered evidence about Collective Worship in Hampshire from various sources including: -



- Work with secondary and primary networks
- Reports provided by the county RE Inspectors in relation to their work with schools
- reports from Ofsted secondary school visits mentioning Collective Worship

SACRE's monitoring of Collective Worship reveals that compliance with legal requirements in primary schools continues to be good. However, constraints on space in secondary schools is frequently cited as a reason for poor compliance with legal requirements in secondary schools. An action point to support Collective Worship in Secondary schools continues to be included in SACRE's 3-Year Action Plan: 2024-2027.

Advice on Collective Worship is offered to schools on the RE Curriculum Site and through the Collective Worship pack available from the County Religious Education Curriculum Centre.

### **Complaints about Collective Worship**

No complaints have been received about Collective Worship under the local statutory complaints' procedure during the period of this report.

### **Applications for Determinations regarding the character of Collective Worship**

There were no applications for a Determination regarding the character of Collective Worship during this period.

## **4 SACRE links with other bodies:**

Both HIAS Advisers are active in the national RE arena and, therefore, able to ensure Hampshire RE continues to be in the national/public eye, as well as being part of national discussions regarding RE. The County Inspector/Adviser has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC) during this period, having previously been its Co-chair. The Secondary RE Adviser is a member of Association of University Lecturers of RE and presented at their national conference in the summer term.

The County Inspector/Adviser is the South East leader for the RE Hubs national project and as such, has kept the SACRE updated on its work throughout the year.

SACRE Inspector/Advisers continue to be involved in the training of teachers, senior leaders, and governors in relation to raising awareness of extremism. SACRE's advisers have also been able to run training for governors in relation to the contribution of religious education to the promotion of children and young people's spiritual moral and social development (SMSC). All of this is contextualised into the Hampshire local context. Further all these matters are explored in RE in such a way as to be appreciated in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Training that has been run for head teachers in relation to Living Difference IV has also ensured that the place of RE in the whole school curriculum is well understood by school leaders.

All training for school leaders and school governors gives an opportunity to make sure ensure school leaders and managers of Hampshire schools are aware of what RE, through the approach in Living Difference IV, can bring to these complex areas.

### **SACRE's Contribution to the LA's public sector equality duty**

Hampshire SACRE takes seriously its contribution to the LA's public sector equality duty. For example, it seeks to ensure that SACRE membership reflects the diversity of the local community and, where possible, develops close links with faith communities represented on SACRE.

Through the work of SACRE's professional advisers (HIAS Inspector/Advisers), communication is maintained between SACRE and Hampshire's Ethnic Minority and Travellers Achievement Service (EMTAS) as well as those developing the Rights Respecting Education work across the county. SACRE is able to be aware of issues arising in the county and ensure religious education is relevant and responsive and a range of school contexts.

## **5. SACRE contribution to support schools through events and training**

The SACRE officers continue to be responsive to the needs of teachers in Hampshire and offer a range of training and other support (as discussed elsewhere in this report) through the County Council, Learning Zone and Hampshire Teaching and Leadership College (HTLC) supported by the HIAS advisers and inspectors. A full programme of in-service training courses has been provided.

142 teachers were booked to attend one of 4 primary and a secondary network in 2023/24. The regional nature of primary network meetings ensures opportunities are available for Religious Education subject leaders to be well-prepared by SACRE Advisers to teach Living Difference IV.

Two additional webinars were offered on Ofsted and RE requirements, following the publication of the national Ofsted RE report and a further webinar is planned for this next reporting period. Primary and secondary steering groups met to develop materials and guidance, which is disseminated by the SACRE support officers on the county RE website as well as through publications available for sale from the RE Centre.

A cross phase RE Conference took place in October 2023 with delegates from a range of primary, secondary and special schools in attendance. Members of both the primary and secondary steering groups were present and many ran workshops and presentations with fellow teachers.

A summary of the RE CPD on offer to teachers is here. The figures are slightly higher than last year for numbers attending training:

Primary RE network	26
Primary RE network	35
Primary RE network	26
RE Networks Teams	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>22-23 Secondary</b>	
teams	9
face to face	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>
RE Conference	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>
How to Manage RE in Key Stage 1 and 2 2023 – 2024	15
How to Manage RE in Key Stage 1 and 2 2023 – 2024	15
Assessment in Religious Education in the Primary Phase 23-24	9
Assessment in Religious Education in the Primary Phase 23-24	10
RE & New Ofsted Framework for 2023 -24 (Webinar)	13
RE & New Ofsted Framework for 2023 -24 (Webinar)	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

The RE Moodle is offered to schools through Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service and is an online 'platform' where materials written by SACRE Advisers and the RE steering groups can be made available to teachers. This is in addition to the opportunity teachers have to access materials for teaching Living Difference IV through the Hampshire Website.

**The County RE Curriculum Centre** continued to support the work of teachers across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. During the academic year 2022/23 there were 368 subscribers to the Centre, from mainly primary schools but also secondary and special schools too. The RE centre is used by teachers and others for viewing and loaning resources. In addition, the centre has been available for use as a meeting place for planning, consultations, and training and as a source for inspiration and information.

The RE Curriculum Centre has been very active throughout the period of this report, loaning artefact boxes as well as selling packs. The Centre Manager has continued to be available to offer guidance and to direct teachers to the latest materials to ensure the thorough implementation of Living Difference IV, and in other ways support the SACRE in securing high quality RE across Hampshire.

**Separate curriculum updates for Primary and Secondary schools** continue to be made available to schools through subscription, twice each year. These have been an important part of ensuring the important messages regarding implementation of Living Difference IV have been received by schools. In general, these are received electronically into schools, however a hard copy version is available to schools at an additional cost.

## 6 Management of SACRE

LA support to SACRE has remained constant over the past 13 years and this supported through funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The SACRE has continued to be well supported by Democratic Services and there has been an experienced SACRE clerk in post during this reporting period.

SACRE has also over many years been provided with inspector time for the support of its activities. Additional funding of Inspector days continued in 2023-24 for SACRE monitoring visits to schools.

Standards and quality of provision for Religious Education in Hampshire schools is regularly and systematically monitored by the SACRE Monitoring Group. During this reporting period, findings have been regularly submitted to the full SACRE at its termly meetings.

In the previous reporting period, the SACRE appointed a Task and Finish Working Group as a sub-committee of SACRE to review the current Constitution for SACRE in line with all relevant legislation, in particular the Education Act 1996, Sections 390-397. This was a significant piece of work in partnership with Democratic Services and the Hampshire Legal Services and the constitution was adopted in July 2023. Membership of group A was reviewed and a recommendation made to have a Humanist member of group A rather than as a co-opted member. This was recommended by the SACRE in its first meeting of this period and put forward to the Local Authority as a recommendation later in the year. This was accepted.

### Attendance at SACRE by Committee 2023/24

#### Group A

Faiths and beliefs represented:

Methodist	
Muslim (Sunni and Shia)	Roman Catholic
Salvation Army	Sikh
Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches	Society of Friends
Jewish	
Humanist	

Vacancies remain for Hindu, Buddhist, Bahai and Baptist representatives

Group B Church of England – 4 members + 1 deputy

Group C – Teachers Liaison Panel (TLP) - 4 members + 2 deputies

This includes representatives from a Sixth Form College, Secondary, Special and Primary Schools and a Head Teacher.

**Group D** – County Councillors – 4 members + 3 deputies

**Co-opted members** representing:

Higher Education (2)

Humanist (for the first meeting of the year only, due to being made a member of Group A for the second meeting of the year onwards)

Academy

School Governors

**Attendance**

**All meetings were quorate.**

**Autumn - November 2023**

Group A = 62%	5/8
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 50%	2/4
Group D = 100%	4/4

**Spring - February 2024**

Group A = 55%	5/9
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 50%	2/4
Group D = 100%	4/4

**Summer - July 2024**

Group A = 60%	6/10
Group B = 50%	2/4
Group C = 50%	2/4
Group D = 100%	4/4

**Co-opted Members**

Nov 2023 1/5 – 20%

March 2024 2/4 – 50%

July 2024 3/4 - 75%

### **Training available to SACRE Members.**

Training is regularly made available to SACRE members by SACRE officers, when there are enough new members to require this. This was offered at the start of the year and at the beginning of the summer term. The SACRE also regularly advertises the NASACRE training which members can subscribe to as part of the Hampshire SACRE training package with NASACRE.

## **Appendix One      Membership of the Hampshire SACRE**

Chairman:    Councillor Elaine Still (from group D)

Group A:     Chris Hughes, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches  
Chris Robinson, Humanist  
Danny Habel, Jewish  
Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dattoo, Muslim  
Yasmeen Hussain, Muslim  
Father John Chandler, Roman Catholic Church  
Rhian Jones, Salvation Army  
Harjinder Virdee, Sikh  
Noel Thorpe-Tracy, Society of Friends  
Peter Grayson, Methodist

Group B:     Sue Bowen Church of England  
Reverend Jeff Williams Church of England  
Reverend Howard Wright Church of England  
Maria Ackland, Church of England

Group C:     Maureen Barnes, Teachers' Liaison Panel  
Julie Kelly, Teachers' Liaison Panel  
Carson Elday, Teachers' Liaison Panel  
Rachel Jackson, Teachers' Liaison Panel

Goup D:      Councillor Christopher Donnelly  
Councillor Wayne Irish  
Councillor Pal Hayre

Co-opted Members:

Gill Heron, Academy Schools  
James Pitkin, Governors  
Rhiannon Love, Higher Education  
Alasdair Richardson, Higher Education