

**ISLE OF WIGHT  
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

The Standing Advisory Council  
for Religious Education  
Annual Report

**SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020**

## **Foreword by the Chairman**

It has been my continuing privilege to serve as the Chair of the Isle of Wight SACRE for the past two years, following several years of involvement as secondary schools' representative. The Isle of Wight SACRE is a dynamic group of people committed to ensuring IoW children and young people attending IoW schools offer the highest provision for religious education. We seek to ensure that all children and young people are able to explore their own lives and develop their own thinking based on engaging intellectually with a range of perspectives.

The year represented by this report included the first 'lock-down' against COVID-19 and SACRE is acutely aware of the challenges this brought for teachers and schools.

During this period SACRE has continued to be represented at the South Central Hub meeting in Winchester and monitored the effectiveness of the locally agreed syllabus Living Difference III. We have continued to work alongside the RE inspectors in Hampshire to ensure our young people have access to a challenging curriculum that suits their needs and helps them develop their own understanding of what it means to be religious or live a religious life and this has been particularly effective in raising and maintaining standards in our primary schools. However, SACRE remains concerned about the provision for RE in some LA secondary schools.

The network for secondary school RE teachers is now in its second year and has ensured good practice is better modelled and shared. Professional education for teachers in the locally agreed syllabus can be more constant now.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Isle of Wight SACRE for their continued commitment to our children and young people. It is a pleasure to meet and work alongside so many passionate people, albeit virtually for part of the year covered by this report. So many give up their valuable time to support the continued development of RE in order to enable our children and young people to experience religion in a way which has meaning to them. In these unusual times enabling children and young people to receive high quality religious education has never been more important.

I have great pleasure in commending this report to you.

Beth Feltham

## **SACRE's Role**

Local Authorities have been required since 1988 to establish SACREs.

### **SACRE:**

- Is responsible for advising the Local Authority in matters concerning the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Acts of Worship. It also has a monitoring role in this subject.
- Decides on applications for determinations of cases in which requirements for Christian collective worship is not to apply. (Never been called upon to do so on the Island.)
- Can require the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus.
- Is required to publish an Annual Report of its work

SACRE should reflect broadly the proportionate strength of religions or denominations in the area. \*

\* **See Annexe 1 for Membership**

## **Context of this Annual Report**

The SACRE Annual Report is in two parts. First concerning provision made during this period to implement Living Difference III and ensure RE teaching across the Isle of Wight is according to the Agreed Syllabus. This includes analysis of 2019 GCSE data and reflection on the provision of religious education at Key Stage 4 across the Island. In light of Covid-19 there will be no IoW data to report for 2020.

The second part of the report concerns the well-being of SACRE itself.

## **Agreed Syllabus**

***Living Difference III*** was adopted as the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education on the Isle of Wight in January 2017. Much work has continued through the period of this Annual Report to ensure there continues to be provision for training head teachers and senior leaders as well as ongoing provision for development among subject leaders in all phases of education. ***Living Difference III*** continues to be well received in schools and professional development opportunities available to support schools in their consistent implementation of the syllabus.

SACRE professional adviser and HIAS inspector/advisers enable SACRE to monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in various ways.

## **Implementation of *Living Difference III***

Significant progress was made during the last reporting period in ensuring there is more consistent provision for RE in Isle of Wight secondary schools, especially at Key Stage 3. Secondary RE network meetings, well attended and supported by HIAS, have taken place once each term or the last 2 years and have supported this part of SACRE's work. Good attendance at these meetings has ensured secondary RE teachers from across the Island have had the opportunity to plan together and share good practice. This network meeting, run by SACRE's professional adviser, has been an opportunity also to discover where there are short comings in provision for RE in Isle of Wight secondary schools; thus, monitoring the implementation and impact of the Agreed Syllabus, Living Difference III.

As has been the case for several years, the regular Primary RE groups have continued to run twice a year and have also been well attended. However, the second meeting did not take place due to travel disruption getting to the Island and the National Lockdown taking place. The training networks and the regular email contact with schools have helped SACRE and the local authority working together to know that schools have access to training and advice and are able to use Living Difference III well. Through the provision of training and advice, there is progression through KS1, KS2 and onto KS3. Teachers in both primary and secondary schools are becoming more confident with planning using Living Difference III. More examples of good practice are emerging, especially in primary schools.

The regular Primary Schools' network meetings support the formal training offer and RE support networks have continued to develop and evolve and have been well attended. Teachers report that they find the inputs, and the opportunity to share good practice, invaluable. Guest speakers from different faiths have been very popular and teachers are given a better understanding of those faiths through the opportunity to question those living the faiths.

## **Young people's access to Religious Education at Key Stage 4, including Isle of Wight GCSE performance in 2019.**

### **Background information**

- Religious Education (RE is statutory at Key Stage 4 (KS4). There has been a shrinking number of young people being entered for a formal qualification in Religious Studies on The Isle of Wight. The impact of EBacc has resulted in significant change on the Isle of Wight at KS 4 over the last few years.
- The Specification for the RS GCSE was changed in 2016, for examinations first sat in 2018.
- Schools which have the best results for RS are those which enable students to access the full amount of time recommended for the GCSE and to be taught by specialist teachers.

### **RE at Key Stage 4**

- Across the Isle of Wight there continues to be a wide disparity in what is offered at KS4 school by school. This is continuing to cause SACRE concern.
- GCSE is taught in four secondary schools.
- Achievement in some cases is at least on a par with national data, but in general below national 4+.
- It is continued to be strongly recommended to schools all that students should be taught by RE specialist teachers or teachers who have access to on-going CPD in religious education at GCSE and that adequate time should be given to GCSE teaching, at least that which is recommended by the examination boards.
- Where GCSE is not taught at KS4, students must have access to a rich religious education curriculum that meets the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus and is at least ensuring schools meet the OFSTED requirements for religious education as set out in the appropriate Ofsted Inspection Handbook.
- SACRE is increasingly concerned that some young people on the Isle of Wight are not able to access their entitlement to high quality religious education at KS4.

## **Determinations**

There have been no applications for Determinations in Collective Worship during this past year. Nor have there been any complaints about Collective Worship.

## **Management of SACRE.**

### **Attendance**

<b><u>November 2019</u></b>	
Committee A (Representatives of Religious Bodies)	88%
Committee B (Representatives of the Church of England)	50%
Committee C (Representatives of Teacher Associations)	50%
Committee D (Representatives of the Authority)	0%
<b><u>March 2020</u></b>	
Did not take place due to the Covid 19 restrictions.	
<b><u>July 2020</u></b>	
Committee A	88%
Committee B	50%
Committee C	50%
Committee D	0%

## Commentary

- 1 Normally SACRE meets 3 times per annum, one meeting per each school term. However, due to the sudden imposition of Covid-19 restrictions, the planned March meeting was cancelled at very short notice. The meeting in June proceeded on-line via Zoom. Once this system of communicating was established for SACRE meetings and activities, business continued almost "as normal". Members "met" for The Agreed Syllabus Conference and also in planning meetings for the review of LD111, and also for the South Central Hub meeting
2. Towards the end of the year, 2 representatives, of the 4 representing the Church of England, resigned. The Diocese has identified one new member but still retains 1 vacancy. The new member will join SACRE in the forthcoming school year.
3. The Local Authority has made 2 changes to its representation. One being an Elected Member and the other a non-Elected member. The latter will attend his first meeting in the forth -coming school year. One LA representative has suffered from long term illness.

Unfortunately, the remaining two were unable to attend the two meetings due to illness and conflicting LA commitments.

4. SACRE was pleased to welcome a representative of the Methodist church into group A.
5. Every 4 years SACRE has to decide if it wishes to advise the LA to review its Agreed Syllabus. The Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened in June (via Zoom). The meeting was well attended by 14 members and unanimously resolved to advise the LA to review LD111 in collaboration with the other Local Authorities.
6. SACRE continues to be well supported by the RE inspectors from Hampshire. Their wide-ranging experience, combined with their involvement in national initiatives, ensures that the IW SACRE, and the LA, are well briefed and kept up-to-speed with initiatives. Once again, evidence of this support can be seen in the detailed analysis of the Island's RE GCSE results reported to SACRE.
7. The Clerk continues to act as a liaison between the Inspectors and the Island schools.
8. SACRE's Development Plan is reviewed at each meeting and the latest version is attached here (Annexe 2). This enables SACRE to monitor if, and how, it's achieving its stated aims at supporting schools in RE.

## **Funding**

SACRE continues to be well supported by the LA through an allocated budget.

The basic budget is £4000 per annum. The amount covers administration by an appointed Clerk and members' expenses as necessary.

## **Summary**

As last year, through continued links with Hampshire, SACRE has benefited from the support of the two Hampshire RE inspector/Advisers; one of whom is designated as the Professional Adviser to SACRE. Their expertise and advice continue to be invaluable in supporting SACRE fulfil its statutory duties.

A strength of the Isle of Wight SACRE is the membership of Group A, reflecting the variety of faiths active on the Island and in neighbouring communities. A representative of the Hindu faith travels from Portsmouth to help and give advice.

The Clerk continues to act as a link between SACRE and schools and representatives of different faiths. SACRE members are engaged with visiting schools as well as supporting training for teachers. Church of England Diocesan networks also run on the Isle of Wight for subject leaders in Church Schools. Some of these teachers also attend the LA network meetings. All schools are teaching the Locally Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III.

The Isle of Wight SACRE continues to have a strong sense of team spirit, commitment and cooperation. Meetings are held in an open, frank, manner. The four groups of SACRE ensure SACRE is able to meet its statutory responsibilities



## Annexe 1

### SACRE Membership July 2020

#### Committee A

##### Members representing the "Free Churches"

Mrs Sue Cox (Baptist)  
Rev. Mike Hackleton (Methodist)

##### **Two members representing the Roman Catholic Church**

Sister Stella Kelly  
Mrs Alison Burt

##### **Members representing non-Christian faiths**

Dr. Lionel Alexander (Jewish faith)  
Mr. David Downer (Buddhist)  
Mrs Anne Sechiari (Buddhist)  
Mr Praful Thaker (Hindu)  
Mr Simon Bligh (Humanist)  
Mrs Norma Corney (Baha'i)  
Mr Ebrahim Jeewa/ Mr. Abdul Basith (Muslim)  
Mrs Mary Clark (Quaker)

#### Committee B (4 members in total)

##### **Representing the Church of England**

(2 to be appointed)

Rt Reverend Peter Leonard  
Mrs Beryl Miller

#### Committee C (4 members in total)

##### **Representing the teachers of the Isle of Wight. Nominated by appropriate groups.**

Secondary	Miss Beth Feltham	Sandown Bay Academy
Primary	Mrs Kirstie Thomas	Cowes Primary School
Special	Mrs Hannah Bowkis	Medina House
Headteacher	Mrs Nicki Mobley	All Saints CE, Freshwater

#### Committee D (4 members in total)

##### **Representing the Local Authority. Two elected Members. Two nominated by the Director of Education**

Cllr Debbie Andre  
Cllr George Cameron  
Mr. Stuart Brenchley Christ the King College  
Mr Alex Augustus Principal St Francis Academy

#### In attendance

Harry Kirby Clerk/Coordinator  
Dr. Patricia Hannam RE Inspector (Secondary)  
Justine Ball RE Inspector /Advisor

## Annexe 2

**Isle of Wight SACRE 3 year Action Plan for SACRE 2018, 2019 & 2020:** to be reviewed at each monitoring group meeting and progress reported to each SACRE meeting through Monitoring Group Report. SACRE review Action Plan annually as part of annual report

No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
<b>1.</b>	<b>Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness and Leadership</b>				
1.1	SACRE to meet once each term and be quorate	SACRE Professional Adviser and SACRE Clerk	Once each term	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green – but SACRE was not held in March 2020 due to COVID-19
1.2	Representative appointments to all four groups of SACRE to be in place	SACRE Professional Adviser and SACRE Clerk	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.3	Introductory training offered to new SACRE members	SACRE Professional Adviser	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.4	Regular training offered to all SACRE members regarding new national initiatives relevant to RE	SACRE Professional Adviser	When necessary	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Green
1.5	SACRE Members appointed to attendance South Central SACRE RE Hub once each term and NASACRE AGM and other events as deemed fitting by SACRE	SACRE Professional Adviser SACRE Chair and Vice Chair and SACRE Clerk	Various	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective and take active part in NASACRE and SACRE events in the region	Green
1.6	SACRE engage in monitoring Collective Worship across the county and identify examples of best practice in secondary, primary and special schools	Monitoring Group with SACRE Professional Adviser & SACRE Chair and Vice Chair	Monitoring Group report to SACRE meetings	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Amber
1.7	SACRE monitor withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship and develop guidance for IoW schools	Monitoring Group with SACRE Professional Adviser & SACRE Chair and Vice Chair	Monitoring Group report to SACRE meetings	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	Red (still to action)

No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
<b>2.</b>	<b>Implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus : Living Difference III</b>				
2.1	Monitoring Group to meet once each term and report to each following SACRE meeting	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each term	For Isle of Wight SACRE to be effective	One out of 3 meetings in 2019.20 in light of Covid
2.2	Monitoring visits to take place in schools	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each term	This and other data (e.g. annual ascertain provision of RE in Isle of Wight Schools & overall findings presented to SACRE	Funding and Covid-19 has prevented
2.3	Monitoring and reporting of GCSE results	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each year	Verified results to have been considered by Monitoring group once each year and findings presented to SACRE	Green
2.4	Monitoring in-service Professional Educational opportunities attended by teachers: (i) Feedback from teachers on need (ii) Uptake of loW RE Networks and other Hampshire courses (primary and secondary and special )	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of data including feedback from teachers on courses undertaken by inspector/Advisers	Amber
2.5	Monitoring group reporting on Ofsted Visits to Isle of Wight Schools mentioning or inferring messages about religious education	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of information from Ofsted inspections of Isle of Wight Schools	Green
2.6	Monitoring group reporting on other HIAS visits made to schools revealing information about RE	SACRE Monitoring Group and SACRE Professional Adviser	Once each term	Analysis of information from HIAS school visits to Isle of Wight Schools	Green
2.7	Monitoring withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship through annual questionnaire – ensuring that this is received in schools by the right person to complete	SACRE Clerk and SACRE Professional Adviser with SACRE Monitoring Group	Once each year	Analysis of questionnaire reported to SACRE	Green

No.	Actions	Who	Target completion date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
3.	<b>Meeting training needs of Isle of Wight teachers and school leaders</b>				
3.1	Review professional education offer through a questionnaire to teachers	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	Autumn term 2018	Identify and meet any gaps in current professional education provision	Amber
3.2	Be aware of professional education offer across partner and neighbouring SACREs	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	Identify and meet any gaps in current professional education provision	Green
3.3	Support on-going development of an annual pattern of professional education for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) New RE leaders in primary schools</li> <li>(ii) Experienced RE leaders in primary schools</li> <li>(iii) NQT, HoD and other specialist courses</li> <li>(iv) Courses for non-specialist secondary teachers of RE</li> <li>(v) special education teachers</li> <li>(vi) Subject booster opportunities available</li> <li>(vii) Governor training</li> </ul>	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	ensure pattern of professional education is relevant and well timed	Amber/Green
3.4	Ensure a rolling programme of briefing for head teachers and separately for governors regarding Living Difference III across the Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight Inspector/Advisers	ongoing	For Isle of Wight teachers at all stages of their careers to have access to high quality appropriate professional education opportunities	Working through HIAS School Improvement Partner for the IoW

No.	Actions	Who	Target date	Intended outcomes	Status and RAG rating
<b>4.</b>	<b>Resourcing Living Difference III</b>				
4.1	Ensure teachers in primary, secondary and special schools have access to resources to support the teaching of Living Difference III	Isle of Wight RE Inspectors/Advisers, Isle of Wight Curriculum RE Centre manager and SACRE members and teachers	Progress on these elements reviewed annually by Monitoring group	Relevant publications available for teachers at all key stages to enhance the teaching of RE with Living Difference III	Green
4.4	Review KS4 provision in secondary schools especially non examination courses in light of developments with GCSE	Isle of Wight County RE Inspector/Adviser		Ensure all young people have access to Good Quality RE at KS 4 and able to receive their entitlement for RE.	Green
<b>5.</b>	<b>SACRE Youth Voice</b>				
	Development of SACRE Youth Voice	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members	Ongoing through the period of this development plan		Red – in progress
5.1	Summer SACRE Youth Voice conference to take place	Inspector/Advisers, SACRE Chair and members	Summer 2019		Not in 2019/20