

# SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education  
 Annual Report 2018/19

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## **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**

The focus of the year 2018/19 has been SACRE's on-going work with Portsmouth's Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III. This is in a climate where a large number of The Authority's schools are now part of multi-academy groups. However SACRE is delighted that Living Difference III continues to be much appreciated and well used in our schools, regardless of academy status. Schools tell us that they appreciate the clear guidance it contains enabling teachers appreciate how to teach high quality RE.

Portsmouth SACRE members have continued to participate in regional and national RE meetings and events during this period. In particular attending the South West AREIAC SACRE conference, the South Central SACRE Hub meetings as well as NASACRE. SACRE continued to follow with interest the on-going developments resulting from the Religious education Council's Commission on RE report.

We thank Patricia Hannam as professional adviser to SACRE as well as Justine Ball, who as primary inspector/adviser in Hampshire has offered primary RE network meeting. We are especially grateful for the continued provision of excellent clerking support from within the Authority and have valued working with Joanne Wildsmith during this period.

Portsmouth teachers continue to have the support of SACRE since SACRE is interested in ensuring all children and young people in Portsmouth have access to high quality and challenging Religious Education. We anticipate the productive partnership with Hampshire, Southampton, and now the Isle of Wight, continuing.

I offer my sincere thanks to all who work so hard to support RE in Portsmouth and especially to all the members of the Portsmouth SACRE.

Cllr Suzy Horton  
Chair, Portsmouth SACRE

## **SECTION 1: INFORMATION ABOUT SACRE**

### **1.1 Duty to establish a SACRE**

Since the Education Reform Act of 1988, all Local Education Authorities (LAs) have been required by law to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) within their local area.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.2 What does a SACRE do?**

SACRE is a unique body; it is set up by the LA but is independent of it, with the role to give advice to that LA. The law states that Religious Education must be taught in all maintained schools<sup>2</sup> and a SACRE's role is to advise what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area.

The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how the LA responded to that advice. This includes advice on Religious Education and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

### **1.3 Composition of SACRE**

There are four groups or committees, as below:

- A: The Christian denominations and other religious denominations, reflecting the principal religious traditions of the area.
- B: The Church of England
- C: Teacher and head teacher associations
- D: The Local Authority

The Local Authority has determined that the SACRE should comprise of:

- Fifteen members of other religious groups.
- Four representatives of the Church of England.
- At least six representatives of teachers' associations.
- Four elected members.

Other members may be co-opted from time to time as appropriate for all or part meetings

### **1.4 Membership of SACRE**

The names of the SACRE members and the religious denominations for Group A can be found at Appendix A.

### **1.5 SACRE Functions**

- To advise the LA on collective worship and the Religious Education to be given in accordance with the agreed syllabus including methods of teaching, advice on materials and the provision of training for teachers
- To consider whether to recommend to the LA that its current agreed syllabus should be reviewed by convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference.
- To consider whether the requirement that religious worship in a county school should be 'broadly Christian in nature' should be varied (determinations).
- To report to the LA and the Department for Education (DfE) on its activities on an annual basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Education Act 1996 Section 390:1

<sup>2</sup> School and Standards Framework Act 1998 Section 69

## 1.6 Meetings and attendance

SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2018-19:

14 November 2018  
20 March 2019  
16 June 2019

Minutes of all SACRE meetings and the current membership are available from the Portsmouth City Council website:

<http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=174>

SACRE is supported by a clerk from the Council's Democratic Services, as well as a professional adviser Patricia Hannam.

SACRE is currently seeking representatives from the following local communities: Sikh, Humanist & Buddhist.

The percentages attendance 2018/2019 per group is as follows:

### **Autumn 14 November 2018 (at Highbury Primary School, Portsmouth)**

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Group A = 58%</b>  | <b>7/12</b> |
| <b>Group B = 50%</b>  | <b>2/4</b>  |
| <b>Group C = 43%</b>  | <b>3/7</b>  |
| <b>Group D = 100%</b> | <b>4/4</b>  |

### **Spring- 20 March 2019 (at Civic Offices)**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Group A = 66.6%</b> | <b>8/12</b> |
| <b>Group B = 50 %</b>  | <b>2/4</b>  |
| <b>Group C = 14.3%</b> | <b>1/7</b>  |
| <b>Group D = 75%</b>   | <b>3/4</b>  |

### **Summer – 16 June 2019 (at King's Church, Somers Road. Portsmouth PO5 4AQ)**

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Group A - 64%</b> | <b>7/11</b> |
| <b>Group B - 50%</b> | <b>2/4</b>  |
| <b>Group C - 43%</b> | <b>3/7</b>  |
| <b>Group D - 75%</b> | <b>3/4</b>  |

## 1.7 Action Plan

SACRE 3-year action for 2016 -18 can be found in Appendix B.

## 1.8 Circulation of Annual Report

A list of the organisations receiving this report can be found in Appendix D.

## **SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF SACRE'S WORK in 2018/19**

### **2.1 Agreed Syllabus implementation (see Action Plan point 1)**

- Following the reviewed and revised agreed syllabus *Living Difference III* being adopted by the Agreed Syllabus Conference in October 2016, SACRE together with the Local Authority continue to support the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus.

### **2.2 Meeting Training Needs (see Action Plan point 2)**

- Following the initial programme of briefing sessions for head teachers and senior leaders and teachers, the duties on schools regarding religious education is raised regularly at head teachers' meetings. Although Academies are not obliged to follow the Agreed Syllabus SACRE is pleased to enable schools in the Authority to use the syllabus with integrity. Primary network meetings continue to be held once each term and are well attended. Secondary RE Subject leaders have the opportunity to attend Secondary RE Networks as well as the annual conference offered in Hampshire, where the same Agreed Syllabus is shared.

### **2.3 Resourcing Living Difference III (see Action Plan point 3)**

- Primary RE News on-line publication, produced by Hampshire Inspectors is available for Portsmouth schools to subscribe to. Teachers are also aware of the other published resources available to support the teaching of Living Difference III through the Hampshire RE Centre in Winchester.
- SACRE's artefact loan collection continues to be available to schools and is maintained by the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and located in the basement room at the Civic Offices. The council's despatch team continue to deliver/collect the boxes without charge. EMAS also offers support to schools in their exploration of a range of religions and cultures through Festival and Language Packs.

### **2.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus (see Action Plan point 4)**

- SACRE's monitoring group, with agreed terms of reference, continues to meet once each term at a suitable time before each SACRE meeting. The SACRE monitoring group is comprised of at least one representative of each of the 4 SACRE groups. Through regular examination of Ofsted reports from Portsmouth schools, together with other data such as KS4 GCSE results, SACRE is able to take a systematic approach to continuing to have an overview of RE across the authority in changing times. This is in addition to continuing ensure the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus Living Difference III in LA schools through supporting the running of network meetings

### **2.5 Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness (see Action Plan point 5)**

- SACRE has met three times during this period
- SACRE has sought to ensure that all four groups are represented at meetings.
- Teacher representatives from primary schools and 6<sup>th</sup> form college have attended SACRE and during this period a new teacher representative from a secondary academy has been appointed.
- Training was been offered to all SACRE members in September 2018.
- Reports have been regularly presented to SACRE to ensure that SACRE is well informed about local and national matters in relation to Religious Education,

especially during this period in relation to the Commission on RE (CoRE) report published in September 2019.

- Where members have been able to attend local, regional or national events (for example NASACRE in May 2019, reports have been presented back to SACRE.
- A pre SACRE meeting with the Chair or Vice Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser has taken place prior to each SACRE meeting during this period.

## **SECTION 3: STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **3.1 Commentary on GCSE examination results in Religious Studies**

This report offers an overview and brief analysis of the 2018 GCSE data available regarding full course GCSE Religious Studies (RS) in Portsmouth.

#### **Background information**

- The GCSE examination sat in 2018 was the first with the new GCSE RS specification.
- This new course has a different demand from the previous examination specification in terms of subject knowledge and a different criterion for assessment.
- This was the first year that grades awarded were in the format of 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest). The grade 4 is regarded as a 'standard pass' with the grade 5 regarded as a 'good pass'. Ofqual reassured schools that the proportion of young people achieving 4+ in 2018 would be similar to the percentage of young people achieving A\*-C in the previous year.
- The GCSE full course, called Religious Studies (RS) continues to be intended to be taught over 2 years and usually sat at the end of year 11.
- The GCSE is intended to be taught in 120 hours of teaching time.
- Schools which have the best results for RS are those which enable students to access the full amount of time recommended and taught by specialist teachers.
- RS GCSE tests not only knowledge but the capacity to *analyse* and *to use evidence and logical chains of reasoned argument to evaluate*. Teaching must enable students to do this. RS GCSE success has an increased demand in terms thinking as well as writing. Where young people are given the opportunity to analyse, evaluate and in other ways reason well at KS3 standards are higher at GCSE.

#### **Overall findings**

- Entries for GCSE Full Course in Portsmouth reveal that in 2018 out of a cohort of 1687, 345 young people were entered for GCSE RS full course. This compares to out 2016 when out of a cohort in of 1729, 670 students sat full course GCSE and in 2017 when there were 332 entries out of a cohort of 1633.
- A large reduction in the percentage of Portsmouth young people being entered for the full course RS GCSE was observed in 2017 as compared to 2016 and earlier years. However, this rate of reduction to around 20% of the cohort seems to have stabilised in 2018. Nevertheless, this compares unfavorably to 30% of the national cohort sitting GCSE religious studies.
- SACRE has been pleased to note that despite the low percentage of young people undertaking full course RS GCSE in Portsmouth, achievement is good compared to the national. Overall young people have achieved 76% 4+ (up slightly from 75% A\*-C

in 2017) translating to an average point score of 5.3 (up from 5.1 in 2017). The national figure for 2018 was 70% 4+ with average point score of 5.0 nationally. In addition Portsmouth young people achieved well at in the 'good pass' with 66% of young people in Portsmouth achieving the grade 5+, as compared to 59% nationally.

- There were a very few Portsmouth schools who entered no students for the full course GCSE However, although most schools enter some young people for the full course GCSE, only one school entered the full cohort one other school had two groups and all other schools entered small numbers.
- SACRE is therefore concerned about how schools are ensuring all young people are able to accessing their entitlement to religious education (RE) during key stage 4.

### **3.3 Quality of Teaching and Leadership in Religious Education**

In addition to monitoring GCSE Full Course results, Portsmouth SACRE seeks to fulfil its duty to monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus in a number of additional ways.

Specific reporting about RE in Ofsted reports is extremely rare however Portsmouth SACRE Monitoring Group has examined reports where RE has been noted in relation to how pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development (SMSC) has been promoted. In addition, reports have also revealed RE is being evidenced to support the way a school is preparing children for life in modern Britain. Although it is not possible to be certain that there is a definite link between these judgements and the quality of Religious Education, reports can give an indication that there is some provision. Short one-day (section 8) OFSTED inspections of a school already judged as good or better will almost never mention anything enabling SACRE to draw conclusions about RE. The full (section 5) and short reports are available on the Ofsted website.

## **SECTION 4: COMPLAINTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

SACRE has received no formal complaints about Religious Education in the past year.

## **SECTION 5: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **5.1 Monitoring Collective Worship**

Ofsted reports sometime mentioned collective worship in relation to evidencing that a school is promoting children's SMSC development and preparing children for life in modern Britain.

### **5.2 Complaints**

There have been no complaints about Collective Worship in schools.

### **5.3 Determinations**

No requests for determination have been submitted to SACRE and there are no current determinations for review.



## **SECTION 6: LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES**

### **6.1 Links with other Authorities and SACREs**

Portsmouth retains links with the Hampshire SACRE through members who are on both bodies. Portsmouth SACRE is also represented at the South Central SACRE Hub meetings in Winchester.

### **6.2 NASACRE**

The professional adviser to Portsmouth SACRE attended the 2018 NASACRE national meeting and AGM in Manchester.

### **6.3 South Central RE/SACRE Hub**

Portsmouth SACRE members are invited to the South Central Hub meetings during the period of this report. These meetings were attended by a SACRE member from Group A.

## **APPENDIX A - SACRE MEMBERS 2018/19**

**Group A Representatives** - One representative of each of the religions and other bodies listed in the constitution

**Baha'i - Elizabeth Jenkerson**

**Baptist - Geoff Wheeler**

**Evangelical - Peter Davies** (resigned March 2019)

**Hinduism - Renuka Vyas**(resigned at June 2019 meeting)

**Islam Mr Syed Aminul Haque and Sheikh Fazle Abbas Datoo** (from June 2018)

**Judaism - Ruth Guyer** (Vice Chair to March 2017)

**Quakers - Sarah Coote** (as from January 2017)

**Roman Catholic - Honorary Alderman Tom Blair**

**Salvation Army - Captain Teresa Everett** (retired April 2019)

**United Reformed Church - Christine McMillan** (from June 2018)

**Methodist - John Mills** (from November 2018)

**Evangelical Church - Pastor Chris Thomas** (from March 2019)

**Group B Representatives** - Church of England

**Reverend Jane Ball**

**Sue Bowen**

**Revd Sam Duddles** (appointed Feb 2018) Appointed Vice-Chair June 2019

**Jane Kelly** (appointed February 2018)

**Group C Representatives** - teachers representing the various key stages and an association recognised by the Authority for the purposes of consultation and negotiation.

**Paula Withers** Secondary Teacher Representative

**Kari Laing** Post-16 Representative (from April 2018 with Sarah Hanley Post 16 Rep until March 2018)

**Sarah Sadler and Sandra Gibb** Primary School Representatives (Sarah Sadler resigned June 2019)

**Aasha Small** Primary Representative (appointed November 2018)

**Gemma Self** Early Years Representative

**Helen Reeder** Teacher Liaison Panel

**Debbie Lucas** Secondary Rep from June 2019

**Group D Representatives** - Four representatives of the Authority, at least two of whom shall be elected members of the Authority.

**Maria Cole** (appointed as of 19 June 2018 by Portsmouth City Council)

**Taki Jaffer** (appointed as of 19 June 2018 by Portsmouth City Council)

**Councillor Suzy Horton** (reappointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2018) (Vice Chair from July 2017) - Appointed Chair June 2019

**Councillor Tom Coles** - (appointed by PCC June 2019)

Councillor Ryan Brent (reappointed by Portsmouth City Council June 2018) (Chair from July 2017) - no longer a councillor or PCC representative from May 2019, later co-opted to SACRE

**Officers in Attendance:**

**Patricia Hannam** (HIAS), Professional Adviser (from Jan 2017)

**Mike Stoneman**, PCC - Deputy Director of Education

**Joanne Wildsmith**, PCC - Democratic Services (clerk from December 2017)

## APPENDIX B – ACTION PLAN FOR 2016, 2017, 2018

### Glossary of abbreviations

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| FBV   | Fundamental British Values   |
| CPD   | Continuing Professional Development (staff training)   |
| DfE   | Department for Education   |
| EMAS  | Ethnic Minority Achievement Service  |
| EO    | Education Officer  |
| IOW   | Isle of Wight  |
| LA    | Local Authority  |
| LDR11 | Living Difference Revised (in 2011) the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus from 2011-2016            |
| LDR11 | Living Difference III the Portsmouth Agreed Syllabus from Autumn 2016                        |
| RAG   | RAG rated, R = Red, not achieved; A = Amber - partially achieved; G = Green - fully achieved |
| SACRE | Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education  |
| SEF   | School Evaluation Form   |
| SLT   | Senior Leadership Team (in schools)  |
| SMSC  | Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural  |

## Portsmouth SACRE 3 year Action Plan 2016, 2017 & 2018

| No.       | Actions   | Who   | Target completion date    | Intended outcomes  | Status and RAG rating                     |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Agreed Syllabus revision and implementation</b>  |   |                           |  |   |
| 1.1       | SACRE to have new (revised) Agreed Syllabus   | SACRE   | Autumn 2016               | <i>Living Difference III</i> to have been adopted by ASC for Portsmouth  | Green                                     |
| 1.2       | SACRE communication strategy across authority ensuring <i>Living Difference III</i> in all schools  | LA with SACRE support   | Autumn 2016               | Communication strategy to have been agreed and executed  | Green                                     |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Meeting Training Needs</b>   |   |                           |  |   |
| 2.1       | Implement a programme of briefings for head teachers regarding <i>Living Difference III</i> across the Local Authority and sequence of RE Primary Network meetings taking place once each term        | LA with SACRE adviser   | November 2016 and ongoing | Agreed Syllabus to be in place and implemented well in schools using <i>Living Difference III</i>                            | Green                                     |
| 2.2       | Review effectiveness of initial implementation programme and use to inform the development of a further wave of training in <i>Living Difference III</i> during 2017/18.                              | SACRE Adviser together with SACRE Monitoring Group                  | Summer 2017               | Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools  | Green and ongoing                         |
| 2.3       | Working with existing Hampshire and Southampton documents, prepare Portsmouth advice for head teachers on religious observance that may impact children and young people's dress or school attendance | SACRE Adviser together with appointed SACRE 'task and finish' group | Summer 2018               | Contribute to ensuring children and young people's safety in Portsmouth and promote religious literacy in Portsmouth Schools | Green – in final stages before publishing |

| No.       | Actions   | Who                                       | Target Completion date   | Intended outcomes  | Status and RAG rating |
|-----------|---|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resourcing Living Difference 2016</b>  |   |  |  |                       |
| 3.1       | Portsmouth to provide the Hampshire Religious Education Curriculum Update 'Primary RE News' for a further year 2016-2017 to LA schools and follow up the impact of this to support RE teaching through visits and surveys | Portsmouth LA and SACRE Adviser           | Summer 2017  | Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools  | Green and on-going    |
| 3.2       | Identify further training needs and make recommendations to LA Education Service, as appropriate.   | SACRE, SACRE Adviser and Monitoring Group | November 2017  | Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools  | Green                 |
| 3.3       | Make adjustments to resources as appropriate (artefact loan items available to teachers)  | SACRE Adviser                             | December 2017  | Maintain standards for RE in Portsmouth Primary Schools  | Ongoing               |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Monitoring the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus</b>  |   |  |  |                       |
| 4.1       | Monitoring Group to meet once each term   | SACRE Monitoring group with SACRE Adviser | Once each term   | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective   | Ongoing               |
| 4.2       | Monitoring visits to take place in schools  | SACRE Monitoring group with SACRE Adviser | Ongoing rolling programme presented to Monitoring Group once each term | Monitoring visits take place each financial year, detailed findings considered by Monitoring GROUP and overall findings presented to SACRE | Ongoing               |
| 4.3       | Monitoring and reporting of GCSE results including paying attention to the % of entrants.   | SACRE Monitoring group with SACRE Adviser | Once each year   | Verified results to have been considered by Monitoring Group once each year and findings presented to SACRE                                | Ongoing               |
| 4.4       | Continue to monitor Ofsted Inspection Reports mentioning or alluding to RE.   | SACRE Monitoring group and SACRE Advisers | Once each term   | Findings considered and presented to SACRE   | Ongoing               |

| No.       | Actions   | Who   | Target Completion date   | Intended outcomes                          | Status and RAG rating                 |
|-----------|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 4.5       | Monitoring group to provide written report to SACRE noting key points discussed   | SACRE Monitoring group and SACRE Advisers       | Once each term   | Findings considered and presented to SACRE | Ongoing                               |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Maintaining SACRE Effectiveness</b>  |   |  |  |                                       |
| 5.1       | SACRE to meet once each term and be quorate   | SACRE Adviser and SACRE Clerk                   | Once each term   | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective       | Ongoing                               |
| 5.2       | Representative appointments to all four Groups of SACRE to be in place<br>SACRE Chair and Clerk to be appointed   | SACRE Adviser and SACRE Clerk                   | When necessary   | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective       | Ongoing                               |
| 5.3       | Regular training available to new SACRE members when necessary  | SACRE Adviser                                   | When necessary   | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective       | Ongoing                               |
| 5.4       | Training to be offered to all SACRE members following the implementation of <i>Living Difference III</i> and regularly thereafter when enough new members of SACRE Warrant  | SACRE Adviser                                   | Offered before and following adoption of Living Difference III | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective       | Offered in September 2018 and ongoing |
| 5.5       | Written reports presented to SACRE noting key local and national issues related to Religious Education (including SMSC) and collective worship in schools.<br><br>Where members have been able to attend relevant events (e.g. South Central SACRE Hub or NASACRE AGM) they should report back, as appropriate, working with SACRE Adviser. | SACRE Members, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser    | Once each term and when otherwise necessary                    | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective       | Ongoing                               |
| 5.6       | Pre-meeting with SACRE Chair, SACRE Clerk and SACRE Adviser and others as required to take place before each full SACRE meeting   | SACRE Chair<br>SACRE Clerk and<br>SACRE Adviser | Once each term   | For Portsmouth SACRE to be effective       | Ongoing                               |

## APPENDIX C:

### Professional development opportunities offered in 2018/19 for Schools leaders and subject leaders to ensure effective implementation of Living Difference III across the authority

Following the distribution to all schools regarding the new agreed syllabus Living Difference III, the following support took place during the school year 2018/19.

1. **Support for Headteachers** opportunities were sought through this period to keep in contact with head teachers of schools, in a time when more have become academies. Separate briefing sessions have not taken place during this time.
2. **Secondary RE HoDs are encouraged attend CPD opportunities for secondary RE teachers that run in Hampshire.**
3. **Primary network meetings** were held once each term during the period of this report in September 2018, January 2019 and June 2019. Attendance remains good.

## APPENDIX D: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING THIS REPORT

Copies will be sent electronically to the relevant bodies. This report will be available on the Local Authority and NASACRE websites for interested parties to download.

Director of Children's Services, Portsmouth City Council

Deputy Director of Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, Portsmouth City Council

Cllr Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Education, Portsmouth City Council

The Department for Education (Central Government)

NASACRE (National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)

Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all Portsmouth Schools

All members of SACRE

The Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth